

Chris O'Brien

From: Ellen Smith <ellen.smith2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:39 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Ellen Smith
Subject: In support of Article 11 but with some amendments needed added

This is Ellen Lenox Smith, from North Scituate, RI. I have been a medical patient in the state since 2007 and appreciate the opportunity to submit my support with some suggested needed corrections and additions to Article 11

Here are my thoughts that need correcting with their wording:

- **"Smoking or vaporizing cannabis is not permitted in public housing buildings."Landlords are permitted to prohibit smoking or vaporizing cannabis on their property. Occupants in multi-unit housing complexes must obtain written approval from the property owner to smoke or vaporize cannabis in their residence. Restrictions on smoking or vaporizing in residences also apply to medical cannabis patients."**
- As we approach legalization for all, it is important we protect and improve the integrity of the medical program. I understand protecting others from the smoke is necessary but to also include vaporizing is terribly unfair to those that find that to be the best way to medicate as a medical patient. I think this should NOT be included with smoking. If you educate yourself, it is truly just vapor that comes out after inhaling. That dissipates rapidly and does not smell strong as smoke does. It is a fast-acting way for one to medicate for relief. What happens if one submits the request and it gets denied? Many of these people do not have the means to move and find other housing. We need to protect these people that need to medicate in these situations.
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- **"Employers are permitted to fire employees who test positive for marijuana and are suspected of being "impaired by marijuana while in the workplace or during the performance of work."**

This clause makes no sense to me and is terribly unfair to especially medical patients.

If anyone is not performing their job correctly, then of course that needs to be addressed. But to isolate only marijuana users and ID them via urine tests is not acceptable for you could have used cannabis a month before and still test positive and be fired for actually the wrong issue. Why are we not working first with any employee to try to give them a warning first and if that provides no success in work, then terminate them?

But to put it all on a positive urine test is truly not sensible. I think you will be heading to some big lawsuits with this written this way.

Thank you for your time and feel free to reach out if you have questions,

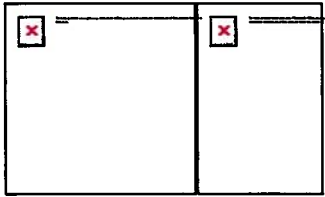
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